

Appendix F

PIRT Letter to WSDA



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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November 10, 2005

Dannie McQueen
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Post Office Box 42560
Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

MODIFICATION OF THE GENERAL PESTICIDE RULES, WAC 16-228

Dear Ms. McQueen:

The Washington State Pesticide Incident Report and Tracking Review (PIRT) panel recommends adoption of the proposed modification to the General Pesticide Rules, WAC 16-228. The proposed changes require notification of the application of pesticides via aerial, airblast, fumigation (outside) or overhead chemigation applications when the application site and the property boundaries touch and the application is within one half mile of schools, hospitals, nursing homes, adult and child day care centers.

The PIRT panel recognizes that pesticide drift is a potentially serious route of exposure to pesticides. Pre-notification of schools, daycares, and hospitals will increase their awareness of highly toxic pesticides used nearby, facilitate feedback to the growers about the timing of planned applications, and will expedite protective actions if drift occurs. While the proposed modifications to the General Pesticide Rules do not restrict applications of pesticides near sensitive sites or otherwise prevent drift, they are an important and welcome change.

We also note that others could benefit from notifications including: adjacent homes, assisted living facilities, senior centers, preschools, private schools, community pools, parks, dialysis centers and medical clinics.

This recommendation was supported by a vote of the PIRT panel members in November 2005.

Sincerely,

Maryanne Guichard
Chair, PIRT Panel
Signed on behalf of the PIRT panel

